

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 08325 201822Z

73

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: BACKBITING AMONG DEFEATED OPPOSITION

1. SUMMARY. NATION'S MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES IN SEARCH FOR EXPLANATION OF POOR SHOWING AT POLLS HAVE LAUNCHED INTERNECINE BATTLE OF COUNTER-ACCUSATIONS AND REMONSTRATIONS. UNITED LEFT AND CU/NF BLAME PASOK FOR BLEEDING OFF THEIR RESPECTIVE SUPPORTERS, WHILE PASOK COUNTERS THAT CU/NF PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE ACTIVITIES WHICH LED TO THE VICTORY OF NEW DEMOCRACY AND THAT THE UNITED LEFT OFFERED MORAL SUPPORT TO CARAMANLIS. LEADING ATHENS NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY ADMITTED ELECTORATE DID NOT VOTE ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES AND CARAMANLIS POLLED MANY VOTES WHICH TRADITIONALLY COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO GO TO OTHER PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ABOUT-FACING ON CONSENSUS JUDGMENT THAT VOTERS OPTED FOR STABILITY AND MODERATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES IN POST-MORTEMs ON THEIR RELATIVELY POOR SHOWINGS HAVE TURNED ON EACH OTHER RATHER THAN CONCEDE GREATER DRAWING POWER OF CARAMANLIS AND NEW DEMOCRACY. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PASOK'S

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08325 201822Z

ATTACKS ON CU/NF SAPPED CRITICAL STRENGTH WHICH WAS

TRANSFERRED TO NEW DEMOCRACY. CU/NF INSIDERS HAVE ALSO ENGAGED IN SELF-CRITICISM TO EXTENT OF SPECULATING WHETHER CU/NF MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE BETTER AT POLLS HAD MAVROS DIRECTED MORE FIRE AT PAPANDREOU AND LESS CRITICISM AT CARAMANLIS. UNITED LEFT IN REVIEWING ITS PERFORMANCE AFTER USUAL ALLEGATIONS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALIST INFLUENCE ADMITTED ITS ELECTORATE WAS SPLIT BY PASOK WHOSE REFUSAL TO JOIN FORCES WITH LEFT CUT INTO NEW VOTER SUPPORT AND FACT LEFT NEEDED MORE TIME TO PREPARE. KKE STATEMENT ACCUSED CU/NF FOR PARTICIPATING IN DECISION TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS AND THUS ABETTING ND VICTORY. HYPOTHESIS OF POLITICAL THEORY THAT COMMUNIST FORCES TRADITIONALLY GAIN STRENGTH DURING DICTATORSHIP PERIOD HAS NOT BEEN BORNE OUT BY SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS. KKE FURTHER ACCUSED PASOK OF RECKLESS USE OF "SUPER-REVOLUTIONARY" SLOGANS WHICH CAPTURED VOTES FROM LEFT.

3. PASOK, CAMPAGNING AS NEW ALTERNATIVE TO GREEK TRADITIONAL POLITICAL LIFE, ANNOUNCED ITS PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET NOVEMBER 22 TO REVIEW ELECTION RESULTS. PARTY STATEMENT ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO PARTISAN (CU/NF AND UNITED LEFT) PRESS ACCOUNTS OF PASOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPLITTING THE "DEMOCRATIC FRONT" CHARGED THAT CU/NF PARTICIPATED IN ALL ACTIONS AND POSITIONS WHICH LED TO VICTORY OF NEW DEMOCRACY WHILE UNITED LEFT "WITH ITS ATTITUDES GAVE FULL MORAL SUPPORT TO CARAMANLIS." PASOK'S STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT PARTY NOW LAUNCHES STRUGGLE WITH "DYNAMIC POPULAR BASE" AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE ITS PROGRAM IN AND OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT.

4. SPECULATION IS WIDESPREAD ON FUTURE OF SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IN GREECE IN LIGHT OF PASOK'S POOR SHOWING. SOME ATTRIBUTE PASOK DROP AS PERSONAL DEFEAT FOR PAPANDREOU, WHO WAS EVEN OUTVOTED ON PASOK TICKET IN THESSALONIKI BY RESISTANCE LEADER STELIOS NESTOR. OTHERS ASSERT PASOK DEFEAT SHOWS GREEK ELECTORATE NOT READY AT THIS TIME TO CONSIDER SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE BUT IMPLY IT MIGHT BE MORE RECEPTIVE IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 08325 201822Z

FUTURE. ADDITIONAL CONJECTURE DWELLS ON POSSIBILITY THAT NEW FORCES WHICH DID WELL AT POLLS - NINE OF TWELVE ATHENS CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED - MIGHT TAKE UP BANNER OF SOCIALISM OR SOCIAL/DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT AND RETURN CENTER UNION TO TRUE LIBERALISM OF ITS FOUNDING. PERHAPS MOST POIGNANT COMMENT ON ELECTIONS CAME FROM ND LEADING DEPUTY IN ATHENS WHO SAID 1974 ELECTIONS CANNOT BE VIEWED IN PERSPECTIVE OF REGULAR GREEK

ELECTIONS SINCE VOTERS DID NOT EXPRESS IDEOLOGICAL
PREFERENCES BUT VOTED ON BASIS OF CONVICTION THAT
POLITICAL PROCESS COULD BEST BE RESTARTED BY CARAMANLIS
AND NEW DEMOCRACY. SAME DEPUTY ADDED THAT "NEW DEMOCRACY
MAY PROVE NOT TO BE A PARTY WITH IDELOGY BUT COLLECTION
OF MEN WHO OWE THEIR POSITIONS TO CARAMANLIS" WHICH
IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING THAT CONSOLIDATING VICTORY
WILL BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR CARAMANLIS THAN
WINNING IT. KUBISCH

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